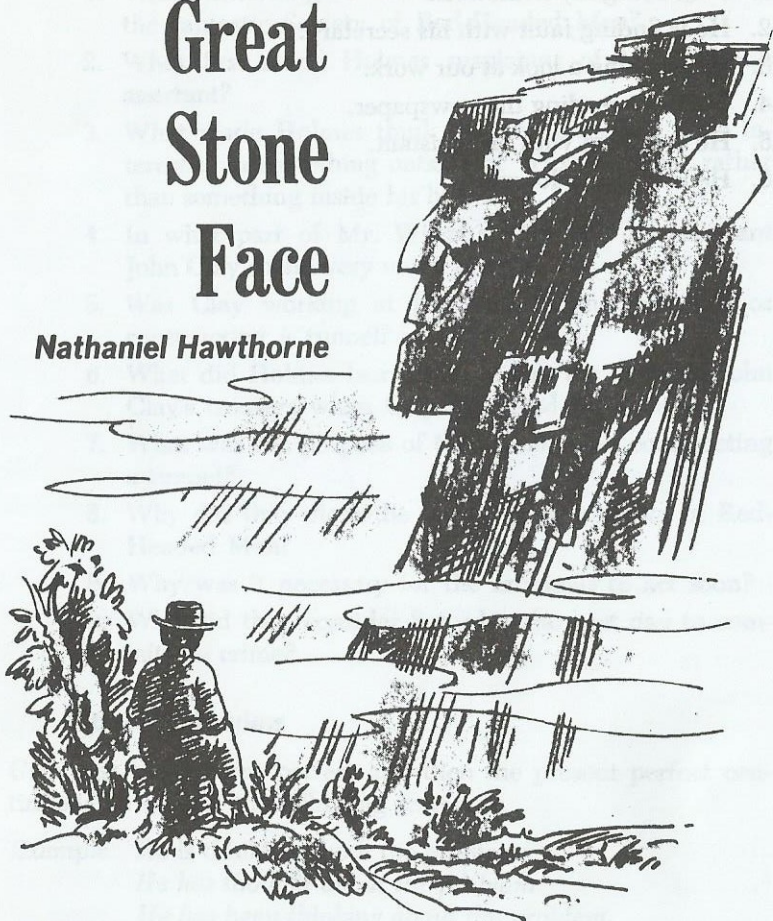


The Great Stone Face

Nathaniel Hawthorne



PART I

One afternoon, when the sun was going down, a mother and her little boy sat at the door of their home, talking about the Great Stone Face. They had only to raise their eyes, and there it was, easily to be seen, although miles away, with the sunshine making clear all its features.

And what was the Great Stone Face?

Deep among a group of high mountains, there was a

valley so wide that it contained many thousand inhabitants. Some of the inhabitants lived in small, poor houses with deep woods all around them. Others had their homes in comfortable farm houses, and they cultivated the earth and raised vegetables and fruits. Others lived together in villages or towns, and there was even a factory here and there. The inhabitants of this valley, in other words, were numerous and of many modes of life. But all of them, grown people and children, were familiar with the Great Stone Face, although some of them, it seemed, were able to distinguish more clearly than their neighbors this great natural phenomenon.

The Great Stone Face, then, was a work of Mother Nature, formed on the side of a mountain by some immense rocks, which had been thrown together in such a position that, when seen from a distance, they seemed to resemble the features of a human face. There was the broad forehead, more than a hundred feet in height, the long nose, the heavy lips, which, if they could have spoken, would have caused a noise like thunder through the valley. True it is, that if a person approached too near, he lost the outline of the gigantic face and saw only some immense rocks. But as he went farther back, the outline became more and more clear until the face seemed positively alive.

It was considered fortunate for children to be able to grow up to become men and women with the Great Stone Face always before their eyes, for the features of the face were noble and kind. It was an education only to look at it. According to the belief of many people, the land of the valley was especially fertile because of the influence of the kind face which was continually shining over it.

As we said before, a mother and her little son sat at the door of their home looking at the Great Stone Face and talking about it. The child's name was Ernest.

"Mother," he said, looking at the Great Stone Face, "I

wish it could speak, for it looks so kind that I am sure the voice would be very pleasant. If I ever meet a man with such a face, I am sure I shall like him very much."

"There is a tradition in the valley which says that someday a great man will appear with exactly such a face," said his mother. Then his mother told Ernest a story that her own mother had told her, a story of things to come in the future; a story, however, so old that even the Indians who previously inhabited this valley had heard it from their fathers before them. The story was that, at some future day, a child would be born in this valley who would become the greatest and most noble person of his time. His face, when he became a man, would exactly resemble the Great Stone Face. Many people still believed in this story and waited for the coming of the great man, but others, who had seen more of this world, thought that it was only a foolish story. In any case, the great man of the tradition had not yet appeared.

"Oh, dear mother!" cried Ernest. "I do hope that I shall live to see him some day."

"Perhaps you may," said his mother, a kind and thoughtful woman.

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

1. What two persons sit at the door of their home talking of the Great Stone Face, when this story opens?
2. Was it easy or difficult to see the Great Stone Face from where they sat?
3. Were all the inhabitants familiar or unfamiliar with the Great Stone Face?
4. Did all of the inhabitants see the Great Stone Face equally well or could some distinguish its features more easily than others?
5. Was the Great Stone Face a work of nature or an artificial work made by man?
6. Was it easier to distinguish the features of the Great

Stone Face from a distance or from a position very close?

7. Were the features of the face noble and kind or ugly and unpleasant?
8. Did the people of the valley think that the Great Stone Face was a good influence or a bad influence upon their lives?
9. What tradition existed in the valley regarding the Great Stone Face?
10. Was Ernest interested in his mother's story of the Great Stone Face?

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Fill in the blanks in the sentences in the right-hand column with one of the words or expressions in the left-hand column:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. valley | 1. Every time the teacher asks a question, he has to _____ his hand. |
| 2. thunder | 2. When there isn't anything to _____, it's better to be silent. |
| 3. gigantic | 3. My baby is going to _____ in a happy home. |
| 4. raise | 4. There was a bad storm, with _____ and lightning. |
| 5. rise | 5. _____ my guide, that building is a thousand years old. |
| 6. talk about | 6. That rocket is going to _____ from the launching pad with a great explosion. |
| 7. grow up | 7. He has to _____ his desk all day long, but he gets very tired because he doesn't get enough exercise. |
| 8. according to | 8. I don't think you _____ anything; you're always saying this isn't true and that isn't true. |
| 9. height | 9. They happened to _____ by chance at a party, and they have become good friends. |
| 10. believe in | |
| 11. sit at | |
| 12. be thrown together | |

10. There is a beautiful _____ just beyond that hill.

11. That mountain must be _____; you can see it from miles away.

B. Use the following expressions in sentences of your own:

1. talk about

6. sit at

2. grow up

7. believe in

3. look at

8. be familiar with

4. throw together

9. according to

5. wait for

10. in other words

PART II

Ernest never forgot the story which his mother told him. It was always in his mind when he looked at the Great Stone Face. Ernest was a good boy, and he spent much time helping his mother, assisting her much with his little hands and more with his loving heart. In this manner, from a happy but quiet child, he grew up to be a strong young man, sun-burned from his hard labor in the fields but with more intelligence than is seen in many boys who go to famous schools. Yet Ernest had had no teacher, except that the Great Stone Face became a teacher to him. When his day's work was done, Ernest would look at it for hours until he began to imagine that those enormous features recognized him and gave him a smile of kindness and understanding in return.

About this time there went a rumor throughout the valley that the great man, as predicted many years ago and who was supposed to resemble the Great Stone Face, had appeared at last. It seems that many years before, a young man who had been born in the valley left his home and went to live in a distant city near the sea. Later he went into business. His business grew and grew until he became very rich and was the owner of many ships. These ships brought him goods from all corners of the earth and also brought him

great wealth until it seemed that everything he touched turned into money. And when at last Mr. Gathergold—or so he was called—became so rich that it would have taken him a hundred years just to count his money, he began to think of his native valley, and decided to return and end his days where he was born. Accordingly, he sent an architect to build him an enormous house, suitable for a man as rich as he.

People in the valley were already saying that Mr. Gathergold was the man, according to the tradition, that everyone had been waiting for. They said that he clearly resembled the Great Stone Face. People were more ready to believe this when they saw the magnificent home which he was building in the place where originally stood the old weather-beaten farmhouse of Mr. Gathergold's father. The exterior was of marble, so white that it resembled snow. There was a long porch and enormous pillars. It was a palace, suitable for any king. No one had been permitted to see the interior of the house but it was reported to be even richer and more wonderful than the exterior. Finally the mansion was finished. Many fine pieces of furniture arrived, and there followed an entire army of servants. Mr. Gathergold himself was expected to arrive late in the afternoon. Our friend Ernest, meanwhile, had been deeply moved by the idea that the great man, the noble man, the man of tradition, after so many years was going to appear at last. Although still only a very young man, Ernest knew that there were many ways in which Mr. Gathergold, with his vast riches, could help the people of the valley and become as important an influence upon their lives as the smile of the Great Stone Face. Ernest did not doubt for a minute that at last he was going to see a living resemblance to the noble features of the Great Stone Face.

"Here he comes," cried a group of people who, like Ernest, had come to see the arrival. "Here comes the great Mr. Gathergold."

A carriage with four horses came around the corner of

the road. Inside the carriage sat Mr. Gathergold. His skin was old, yellow, and wrinkled. He had a low forehead, small, sharp eyes, and thin lips which he made still thinner by pressing them tightly together.

"He looks exactly like the Great Stone Face," shouted the people. "The prediction has come true, and we have the great man at last."

What greatly confused Ernest was the fact that the people really seemed to believe that Mr. Gathergold resembled the Great Stone Face. Ernest turned away from the carriage and looked up the valley where in the last rays of the afternoon sun he could still distinguish the noble features of the Great Stone Face. The kindly lips seemed to say:

"He will come! Do not fear, Ernest! The great man will come."

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

1. Was Ernest a good boy or a bad boy?
2. Did he spend much time or little time helping his mother?
3. Did Ernest go to school or did he have only the Great Stone Face as a teacher?
4. Was Ernest an intelligent or an unintelligent young man?
5. What rumor concerning a prediction connected with the Great Stone Face went around the valley at this time?
6. Why did Mr. Gathergold decide at last to return to the valley?
7. Was Ernest very anxious to see the great man or was he indifferent to his coming?
8. Was Mr. Gathergold, when he arrived, young and handsome or old and wrinkled?
9. Did Ernest see much resemblance or little resemblance between Mr. Gathergold and the Great Stone Face?
10. What encouraging words, however, did the Great Stone Face seem to speak to Ernest as he looked toward it?

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Fill in the blanks in the sentences in the right-hand column with one of the words or expressions in the left-hand column:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. assist | 1. That building is _____; it has thousands of square feet of office space. |
| 2. sunburned | 2. When he realized his mistake, he let out a loud _____. |
| 3. intelligent | 3. Mr. Jones is out of town, but on his _____, I'm sure he'll be glad to see you. |
| 4. wrinkled | 4. He wants to _____ so he can be his own boss. |
| 5. enormous | 5. A gentleman always tried to _____ a lady in taking off her coat. |
| 6. return (noun) | 6. Everybody has to get in line and wait for his _____ to get on the bus. |
| 7. return (verb) | 7. I'm going to _____ at noon tomorrow, and I'd like you to meet the plane. |
| 8. cry (noun) | 8. They stayed at the beach too long and got badly _____. |
| 9. cry (verb) | 9. The bus is going to _____ here, and I'm sure that isn't where I want to go. |
| 10. turn (noun) | 10. I wish you wouldn't _____ any more; here, dry your eyes. |
| 11. turn (verb) | 11. When she was young, her skin was smooth, but now that she is old it has become _____. |
| 12. go into business | |

B. Use the following expressions in sentences of your own:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. grow up | 6. be supposed to |
| 2. look at | 7. be born |
| 3. look like | 8. in return |
| 4. wait for | 9. according to |
| 5. go into business | 10. at least |

PART III

The years went on and Ernest grew to be a man. He attracted little attention in the valley because there was nothing unusual in his mode of life except that when the day's work was over he liked to sit and look in the distance at the Great Stone Face. But Ernest was kindly, hard working, and neighborly, so the people accepted this habit of his without much comment. They did not know, of course, that the Great Stone Face had become a teacher and guide to him, filling his heart with noble sentiments and with a greater wisdom than could be learned in books.

By this time Mr. Gathergold was dead, and it happened that he had lost a great part of his riches even before his death. With the disappearance of his money, people generally began to admit that he did not resemble the Great Stone Face and that he did not have the character of a great man. So the people ceased to honor him and soon he was forgotten completely. The prediction of the Great Stone Face was still unfulfilled.

It next happened, however, that another man, born in the valley, had left many years ago and had become a soldier. After years of hard fighting, he had advanced to the position of a famous general. His real name was seldom mentioned but he was known in the army as Old Blood and Thunder. This famous general, now old, and tired of the hard life of the army, felt a desire to return to the quiet life of the valley where he had been born. The inhabitants of the valley heard of this desire of the general's and decided to welcome him with a public dinner and a military salute of cannon. It was also said that the general resembled the Great Stone Face, and an assistant of Old Blood and Thunder who had passed through the valley, was greatly impressed by the resemblance of the general to the Great Stone Face. His neighbors from his early days and people who had gone to school with him also insisted now that they remembered very well that, as a boy, the general greatly resembled the Great Stone Face.

On the day of the great public dinner, people in the valley stopped work and came from far and near to see the great general who sat at a long table with other important people. There were several important speeches and each speaker rose to his feet and spoke in praise of the many celebrated events in the life of the great man. Meantime, Ernest could hear the comments of various individuals in the crowd who were comparing the features of the hero with the face on the distant mountainside.

"It is exactly the same face," said one man.

"It is similar in every detail," said another.

"And why not?" asked a third. "The general is the greatest man of this or any other age."

And then all three of the speakers gave a great shout. The excitement spread until the noise could be heard for miles throughout the valley. All these comments and the great enthusiasm of the crowd naturally interested Ernest and he did not question that the great man had come. It is true that Ernest had imagined that the long expected person would be a man of peace, not a man of war, a man who would speak kindly and gently and would do much throughout the valley. But apparently he had been mistaken.

"The General! The General!" was now the cry. "Quiet! Silence! The general himself is going to make a speech."

The general now rose to his feet to speak to the people and thank them for the demonstration. Ernest could see him at last. There he was, above the crowd, in his military uniform. Was there such a resemblance between him and the Great Stone Face? Ernest saw, instead, a tired and weather-beaten face, full of energy and expressive of a character of iron—but there was missing the gentle wisdom, the deep and tender sympathy of the Great Stone Face.

"No, this is not the man of the tradition," said Ernest to himself as he left the crowd. "And the world must wait even longer for his coming."

As he walked Ernest looked again at the Great Stone Face. The face was partly covered now by low hanging clouds. But the sun shone through the clouds, and the noble

features were still visible. Again the lips of his great friend seemed to move and to say:

"Do not fear, Ernest. Do not fear. Some day he will come."

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

1. Did Ernest attract little or much attention in the valley?
2. Was he an unpleasant young man or was he kindly?
3. Did the people continue to honor Mr. Gathergold or was he soon forgotten?
4. Was the prediction of the Great Stone Face thus fulfilled or was it still unfulfilled?
5. What second famous man, born in the valley, now decided to return?
6. In what way did the people of the valley decide to welcome him?
7. Was Ernest again interested or uninterested in seeing the great man?
8. When Ernest at last saw the general, did he notice little or much resemblance with the Great Stone Face?
9. In what way did the face of the general differ in expression from the Great Stone Face?
10. What words, again, did the Great Stone Face seem to speak to Ernest as he now looked toward it?

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the appropriate preposition:

1. I'm going to look _____ that word in the dictionary.
2. She really wasn't very interested _____ that book.
3. It's amazing how much they resemble each other; he looks just _____ his father.
4. He was supposed _____ meet me here at five o'clock.
5. I've been waiting _____ her for an hour.
6. He thinks _____ her all the time.

7. He grew _____ in a small town in the mountains.
8. It's not polite to laugh _____ people.
9. I don't want to talk _____ serious matters; I want to enjoy myself today.
10. She was looking _____ the window at the people passing by on the street.
11. He always takes pride _____ his work.
12. I want to find _____ everything, even if I have to spend the rest of my life studying.
13. They passed _____ each other without a word.
14. She has to take care _____ all the household work today.
15. I want to look _____ that matter very carefully before I go any further.
16. I'm not very familiar _____ this machine; please explain it to me.

PART IV

More years passed by—rapidly and quietly. Ernest still lived in the valley and was now a man of middle age. Gradually he had become known among the people. He worked hard and was still the same simple-hearted man that he had always been. But he had thought and felt so much, and he had given so much of his time and thought to good deeds that his wisdom and kindness had gained for him a kind of fame among the people. At the same time he had become a minister, and he went through the valley giving simple sermons to the people. Those who listened to him never suspected that Ernest, their own neighbor and friend, was more than an ordinary man, and Ernest himself did not suspect it, but, when he spoke to the people, noble thoughts, which no other human lips had spoken, came from his mouth.

When the people's minds had had a chance to cool, they were ready to admit that they had made a mistake in imag-

ining that there was a resemblance between the general, Old Blood and Thunder, and the Great Stone Face. But now, again, there were rumors and reports in the newspapers stating that another man had appeared, a great statesman, who greatly resembled the Great Stone Face in every detail. This man also was a native of the valley but had left it many years ago and had entered politics. Instead of the money of the rich man and the sword of the general, this man had only a tongue, — but it was stronger than both together. He was so wonderfully eloquent that his listeners had no choice except to believe him. His tongue was like a magic instrument and he could make his audience do whatever he wished. In truth, he was a wonderful and capable man, and finally he gained great success everywhere throughout the country. He rose from one high office to another until at last he was selected as a candidate for the office of President of the United States.

At this time the candidate decided to visit the valley where he was born in order to shake hands with some of his old friends. Great preparations were naturally made by all the people to receive him. A group of horsemen went to meet him at the boundary of the state and to accompany him along the way. The important people also gathered to greet him. Among these was Ernest. Like the others, Ernest believed that at last the great man of destiny was now going to appear, because Ernest had a hopeful and kind nature, and he was always ready to believe in whatever seemed beautiful and good.

The group of horsemen came down the road. All the important men of the neighborhood were there, military officers in uniform, members of congress, the editors of the important newspapers and others. It was really a brilliant spectacle. There was music and there were flags. On some of the flags there were pictures of the statesman and of the Great Stone Face, facing each other and smiling like two brothers. In these pictures, it must be confessed, the resemblance between the statesman and the Great Stone Face was very clear.

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

1. As the years passed by did Ernest continue to live in the valley or did he move elsewhere?
2. Did he remain unknown or did he gradually gain a kind of fame?
3. Had he become a minister or a teacher?
4. Did Ernest go through the valley giving elaborate sermons or very simple sermons?
5. Did the people finally admit that they had made a mistake in imagining that there was a resemblance between the general and the Great Stone face?
6. What new rumors and reports now appeared in the newspapers and throughout the valley?
7. Was this new man a soldier or a politician?
8. Did he have great ability or little ability as a public speaker?
9. Was he finally selected as a candidate for senator or as a candidate for President?
10. When the great statesman decided to visit the valley, what preparations were made to meet him?

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

- A. Circle the word or expression in the right-hand column that has the SAME meaning as the word on the left:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. gigantic | clever/small/very large/fertile |
| 2. immense | exact/very large/small/pretty |
| 3. huge | very large/very small/ugly/pretty |
| 4. enormous | easy/difficult/pretty/very large |
| 5. assist | need/repay/entertain/help |
| 6. at last | surely/finally/rarely/recently |
| 7. pillar | pillow/servant/tall post/cushion |
| 8. neighborly | nearby/friendly/critical/angry |
| 9. cease | want/hope/stop/avoid |

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10. comments | remarks/cries/criticism/speeches |
| 11. mistaken | confused/recent/wrong/distant |
| 12. gradually | rapidly/now and then/soon/little by little |

B. Give the negative form of each of the following adjectives:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. kind | 6. comfortable |
| 2. familiar | 7. natural |
| 3. able | 8. fortunate |
| 4. possible | 9. regular |
| 5. inhabited | 10. patient |

C. Use the following expressions in sentences of your own:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. pass by | 6. face each other |
| 2. become known | 7. in truth |
| 3. listen to | 8. in order to |
| 4. shake hands | 9. along the way |
| 5. believe in | 10. all the way |

PART V

Meanwhile the people were throwing their hats into the air and shouting. Ernest, too, feeling the same enthusiasm, threw his hat into the air and joined the shouting.

"Hurrah for the Great Man! Hurrah for the Great Man!" But as yet Ernest had not seen him.

Soon, however, a carriage drawn by four white horses appeared. The statesman sat inside, bowing and smiling to the crowd.

Now it must be admitted that at first Ernest did not think there was a resemblance between the statesman and the Great Stone Face. There was the same broad forehead, the same strong features. But there was also something lacking. The expression of the face was less kind, less sympathetic. There was not the same noble quality of the eyes. It was as

if the statesman, although he had done many wonderful things during his lifetime, had led a life which was vague and empty because no high purpose had ever really inspired him.

Still, Ernest's neighbor pressed him for an answer:

"Confess! Confess! Is he not the exact picture of the Great Stone Face?"

"No," said Ernest, simply. "I see little or no resemblance."

"Then it is too bad for the Great Stone Face because he is really a great man," said the other and immediately began to shout again for the statesman.

Ernest turned away, sad and melancholy. He was sad because once again he had waited for the man who would fulfill the tradition but the man had not come. Through the dust of the procession, however, he could see in the distance the Great Stone Face.

"Here I am, Ernest," the lips seemed to say. "I have waited longer than you have, and am not yet tired. Do not fear. The man will come."

The years passed.

Ernest grew still older. He was now a man with white hair. But he had not grown old in vain. With his white hair had also come deep wisdom and understanding. He was also quite famous now throughout the valley and even beyond the limits of the valley. College professors and even the active men of the cities came great distances in order to see him and to converse with him; for it was said that this simple man had ideas unlike those of other men, not gained from books but of a higher tone, as if he had been talking with angels as his daily friends. Ernest received all these visitors—statesmen, literary men, professors—with the gentle sincerity that had characterized him since boyhood, and he spoke freely with them of whatever was deep in his heart or in theirs. When they spoke together his face would shine upon them as with a soft evening light. Later, when his guests left and passed through the valley, they often paused and looked up at the Great Stone Face. It seemed to them

that they had seen its likeness somewhere in a human face, but they could not remember where.

Meanwhile, during these years another man, born in the valley, had also become famous. He was a poet. He had spent the greater part of his life in distant cities, but he often returned to the valley to view the mountains and the familiar places of his childhood, which he loved dearly. He often wrote about the valley in his poetry and, more than once, mentioned the Great Stone Face in his inspired writings. His poetry was simple but beautiful, and his talents were so great that whatever he wrote about seemed to the reader to be even more beautiful and real than it appeared in nature.

The verses of this poet found their way to Ernest. Ernest read them after his customary day's work, seated on a bench before his simple home, where so often he had filled his mind with quiet thought while looking at the Great Stone Face. The verses filled his soul with such admiration that he raised his eyes to the Great Stone Face and murmured:

"Oh, great friend! Is not this man worthy to resemble you?"

The face seemed to smile, but answered not a word.

Now it happened that the poet, although he lived in a distant city, had also heard of Ernest and had a great desire to talk with this simple man who, although uneducated, had won fame because of his wisdom and noble thoughts. Therefore, one day the poet came to the valley and, with his suitcase in his hand, approached the house where Ernest lived. Ernest sat before the door with a book in his hand, reading and stopping at times, as was his custom, to look upon the Great Stone Face.

"Good afternoon," said the poet, "Can you give a traveler a room for the night?"

"Gladly," said Ernest, "I don't think I have ever seen the Great Stone Face look so kindly upon a stranger."

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

1. At first, did Ernest see a resemblance or lack of resemblance between the statesman and the Great Stone Face?
2. In what way, however, was the expression of the two faces different?
3. Which face was lacking in nobility of expression?
4. As he grew older did Ernest gain or lose in wisdom and understanding?
5. Was he still unknown or had he become quite famous?
6. Why did college professors and other important men come great distances in order to see him and converse with him?
7. Was Ernest greatly impressed by all this attention or did he receive these people with his usual simplicity and sincerity?
8. What other man, born in the valley, had become famous during these years?
9. Did Ernest find the poetry of this man inspiring or uninspiring?
10. Had the poet also heard of Ernest or was Ernest completely unknown to him?

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Match the word on the left with its **OPPOSITE** in the right-hand column:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. enormous | _____ full |
| 2. admit | _____ narrow |
| 3. empty | _____ active |
| 4. high | _____ few |
| 5. broad | _____ very small |
| 6. many | _____ shallow |
| 7. much | _____ ugly |
| 8. sad | _____ seldom |
| 9. deep | _____ deny |

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 10. soft | _____ low |
| 11. often | _____ little |
| 12. beautiful | _____ hard |
| | _____ happy |

B. Use the following expressions in sentences of your own:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. turn away | 9. in the distance |
| 2. wait for | 10. more than once |
| 3. look up at | 11. at times |
| 4. hear of | 12. in vain |
| 5. win fame | 13. melancholy |
| 6. (to) murmur | 14. lacking |
| 7. (to) pause | 15. suitcase |
| 8. (to) select | 16. seldom |

PART VI

The poet sat down on the bench beside Ernest, and he and Ernest talked together. The poet had talked with many wise and famous men but never before with a man like Ernest, whose thoughts and feelings were so simple yet so noble. Ernest, too, was greatly impressed by the poet, whose speech and conversation were so brilliant that it was a pleasure just to sit and listen to him. The two men, in other words, found very much to admire in each other.

As Ernest listened to the poet, he imagined that the Great Stone Face was leaning forward and also trying to listen.

"Who are you, my very talented friend?" Ernest asked.

The poet placed his finger on the book which Ernest was reading.

"You have read these poems," he said. "Then you know me—for I wrote them."

Again and again Ernest looked carefully into the poet's face and examined his features. He turned toward the Great

Stone Face, then back again to his guest. Finally he shook his head in sadness.

"Why are you sad?" asked the poet.

"Because all through my life I have waited for the fulfillment of a prediction, and, when I read these poems, I hoped that the prediction might be fulfilled in you."

"You hoped to find in me the likeness of the Great Stone Face. And you are sad because like Mr. Gathergold, Old Blood and Thunder, and the others, I do not resemble the Great Stone Face. No, it is unfortunate but I am not worthy to resemble that majestic image."

"And why?" asked Ernest. He pointed to the book of poems. "Are these thoughts not divine?"

"Perhaps they have a touch of divinity but that is all. And my life has not corresponded always with my thoughts. I have had great dreams but they have only been dreams—and I have done nothing except write. No, I am afraid I am not a great man."

The poet spoke quietly, and his eyes were sad. Sad, also, were the eyes of Ernest.

In the early evening, as was his custom, Ernest went to speak to a group of the neighboring inhabitants in the open air. He and the poet, arm in arm, still talking as they walked along, proceeded to the place, which was situated some distance away at the foot of a high mountain. The place was surrounded by a group of high trees and was a kind of natural, outdoor meeting place.

There was a large stone at the back which served as a platform or pulpit. Ernest mounted this pulpit and began to speak, giving to the people what was in his heart and mind. His words had power because they corresponded with his thoughts and with his deeds. They had reality because they harmonized with the daily life which he had always lived. The poet, as he listened, felt that the being and character of Ernest were a more noble kind of poetry than anything he had ever written. As he looked at Ernest he said to himself that Ernest's face was truly that of a prophet and a great man. In the distance, but easily to be seen in the golden

light of the **setting sun**, was also the Great Stone Face with the same nobility of expression that was visible in Ernest's face.

At that moment, in sympathy with a thought which he was about to express, the face of Ernest assumed such an expression of greatness and nobility that the poet, by an irresistible impulse, threw up his hands and shouted:

"Look! Look! Ernest himself is the likeness of the Great Stone Face."

Then all the people looked and saw that what the deep-sighted poet said was true. The prediction was fulfilled at last. But Ernest, having finished what he had to say, took the poet's arm and walked humbly toward his home, still hoping that some wiser and better man than he would later appear, resembling more exactly the Great Stone Face.

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

1. Was Ernest impressed or unimpressed in his conversation with the poet?
2. Why was Ernest disappointed after examining carefully the face of the poet?
3. Did the face of the poet bear little or much resemblance to the Great Stone Face?
4. Had a great man who resembled the Great Stone Face appeared yet or was the prediction still unfulfilled?
5. Where did Ernest go to speak one evening?
6. Did he go alone or did the poet accompany him?
7. Did the poet feel the expression in Ernest's face was the same as the expression of the Great Stone Face or different from it?
8. What did the poet suddenly shout, throwing up his hands?
9. What prediction had thus been finally fulfilled?
10. Did Ernest himself believe that he resembled the Great Stone Face or did he hope that some wiser and better man would still appear?

Structure Review

Give the past tense form of each of the following sentences.

Example: He has traveled in many countries.

He traveled in many countries.

1. He has given her an expensive present.
2. They have shaken hands with each other.
3. He had lent his friend a lot of money.
4. He has believed everything I told him.
5. She has chosen her friends carefully.
6. They have written a lot of letters.
7. She has put the dishes in the cupboard.
8. The class had begun even though the teacher was absent.
9. We had seen that show a long time ago.
10. They have eaten a hearty meal.
11. They had drunk up all the milk.
12. I have told him where to go.
13. He had taken his dog for a walk.
14. He has left for Chicago.
15. He had said some things I didn't believe.
16. He had spoken to her about the changes he wanted.